

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, PLOS, TPHY, SO, UK, US

SUBJECT: OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH OFF SOMALIA

REF: BROWN (OSA/OFA/MSO) TO KULICK (AF/E) MEMO DATED 11 APRIL

1975 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH EMBOFF STATED THAT RSS SHACKLETON, BASED IN SEYCHELLES, HAD CONDUCTED RESEARCH OFF SOMALI COAST FOR SOME TIME, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES WITHIN SOMALIA'S SELF-PROCLAIMED 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. BRITISH DOKINOT INFORM GSDR OF SUCH ACTIVITIES BECAUSE U.K. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE 200 MILE CLAIM. REQUESTING GSDR CLEARANCE, IT WAS FELT, MIGHT PREJUDICE U.K. POSITION L.O.S. NEGOTIATIONS. SHACKLETON'S MOST RECENT OPERATION ENDED APRIL 14.

2. BRITISH EMBOFF STATED THAT WHEN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES CONTEMPLATED WITHIN 12 MILE LIMIT, WHICH U.K. RECOGNIZES, GSDR CLEARANCE FOR SHACKLETON TO CONDUCT RESEARCH FROM JULY 20 THROUGH AUGUST 4 IN AREA BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 10 DEGREES NORTH AT DISTANCES FROM COAST RANGING FROM MAXIMUM 300 NAUTICAL MILES TO MINIMUM OF 5 - 10 NAUTICAL

MILES. MINISTRY RESPONDED APRIL 5 THAT QTE AT THE MOMENT UNQTE SUCH OPERATIONS WERE QTE NOT CONVENIENT UNQTE. EMBOFF STATED THAT VOYAGE WOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED BUT THAT VESSEL WOULD STAY OUTSIDE 12 MILE LIMIT. HE SAID THAT, AS BEFORE, THERE WAS NO

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PLAN TO INFORM THE GSDR. BECAUSE VESSEL CARRIES INTERNATIONAL

COMPLEMENT OF SCIENTISTS, HE FELT GSDR WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH
ITS ACTIVITIES LEST SOMALIA'S IMAGE ABROAD BE FURTHER BLACKENED.

3. THUS, IT APPEARS THAT PLANTING OF BOTTOM-MOUNTED CURRENT
METER ARRAYS MENTIONED IN REFERENCED MEMO WILL TAKE PLACE DURING
JULY-AUGUST VOYAGE. (COMMENT: WHILE BRITISH SANGUINE ABOUT
VOYAGE, THERE IS ELEMENT OF RISK. RECENT EVENTS SUGGEST NO
GREAT GSDR CONCERN WITH IMAGE ABROAD AND, SHOULD THE MOOD AND
OPPORTUNITY COVERGE, SOMALIS MIGHT WELL SNATCH THE VESSEL,
SCIENTISTS AND ALL. END COMMENT
HAMRICK

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